

REMARKS

Claims 1, 3, 4, and 6 are now pending in the application. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the rejection in view of the amendments and remarks contained herein.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1 - 16 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over JP 56-20927 (JP'927) in view of Kobayashi (U.S. Pat. No. 5,959,713). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claims 1 and 4 have been amended to call for linearly-extending first substrate terminals that are aligned along a center portion of a first edge of the first substrate. Further, claims 1 and 4 have been amended to call for the first electrode pattern and the second electrode pattern to extend obliquely with a liquid-crystal sealing area defined by a sealing member. Lastly, claims 1 and 4 have been amended to call for a feature in that lines of the second electrode pattern each include, within the liquid-crystal sealing area, a first linear portion and an oblique portion that slants obliquely from the first linear portion. Each line has a first linear portion with a different length than the first linear portions of the other lines. Further, spacing between the lines of the second electrode pattern is narrower at the oblique portions than at the first linear portions.

With the above configurations, portions of each electrode pattern that must slant obliquely can be located within the liquid-crystal sealing area in the space that inevitably exists between the display region and the sealing material. Although this space has become increasingly smaller over the years, the present invention is capable of

reducing the spacing between obliquely slanting sections of the second electrode pattern lines by a) extending the substrate terminals for electrically connecting the substrate linearly from the substantial center of one edge of the substrates; and b) extending the lines of the second electrode pattern linearly to different lengths before slanting them obliquely. Accordingly, the obliquely slanting portion of the electrode pattern can be made with an even narrower width so that the space between the display region and the sealing material can be made smaller.

Neither JP '927 nor Kobayashi teach, suggest, or provide motivation to provide such a configuration. That is, neither JP '927 nor Kobayashi teach, suggest, or provide motivation to extend the substrate terminals for electrically connecting the substrate linearly from the substantial center of one edge of the substrates, or extend the lines of the second electrode pattern linearly to different lengths before slanting them obliquely. Since there is no teaching, suggestion, or motivation to provide these features, the alleged combination of JP '927 and Kobayashi does not render the claimed invention obvious.

Claims 3, and 6 should be in condition for allowance and are not obvious for at least the same reasons as their respective independent based claims, addressed above.

Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

It is believed that all of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicants therefore respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw all presently outstanding rejections. It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action, and as such, the present application is in condition for allowance. Thus, prompt and favorable consideration of this amendment is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (248) 641-1600.

Respectfully submitted,

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